UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS DALLAS DIVISION

JOHN BERBERIAN

JBJB HOLDINGS LLC,

Plaintiffs,

V.

Case No. 3:23-cv-02201-X

ROB WILBURN

JOHN GRISHAM

JAMES COURVILLE and
RICHARD SPEIGHTS,

Defendants.

PLAINTIFFS JOHN BERBERIAN AND JBJB HOLDINGS, LLC JOINT OBJECTION TO ELECTRONIC ORDER TRANSFERRING CASE (DKT. 9)

Plaintiffs John Berberian and JBJB Holdings, LLC (collectively, "Plaintiffs") respectfully object to this Court's order proposing to transfer the above-captioned matter from the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division to the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman/Plano Division (Dkt. 9), and would show the Court as follows:

I. Objection

1. Plaintiffs object to the Electronic Order Transferring this Case (Dkt. 9) on the basis that it proposes to transfer this action to the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman/Plano Division, despite venue being proper in the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).

- 2. Under 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), venue is proper in "a judicial district in which a substantial part of the events or omissions giving rise to the claim occurred, or a substantial part of the property that is subject of the action is situated[.]" 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2).
- 3. This is an action wherein Plaintiffs seek declaratory relief finding that they are majority owners of Trinity Clinical Laboratories, LLC ("TCL") pursuant to a series of instruments, written and oral agreements, and actions which were executed and/or occurred, as applicable, in Dallas County, Texas. See Dkt. 1 (Plaintiffs' Original Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief (the "Complaint")). The facts underlying Plaintiffs' claim of ownership happened largely in Dallas County, Texas, including regular board meetings, execution of documents, and other corporate activities evidencing Plaintiffs' majority ownership interest in TCL. More specifically, Plaintiffs and the other owners of TCL met regularly and conducted Board meetings at their Compliance Committee office located at 603 Munger Avenue, Dallas, Texas 75202. Plaintiffs and the other owners also met regularly with TCL's outside healthcare counsel located in the same building. Moreover, one of the prior owners of TCL from whom Plaintiffs acquired their ownership interest is/was located in Dallas County, Texas with an address at 8111 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1065, Dallas, Texas 75251. See Dkt. 1, Exhibit A (Binding Letter of Intent), p. 1.
- 4. Further, this action seeks the recovery of and potentially injunctive relief with respect to assets of TCL, which, as stated in the Complaint, were seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation in a related civil forfeiture action brought in the

Northern District of Texas. See Dkt. 1 (Complaint ¶ 22); see also Dkt. 1-B (Complaint for Forfeiture in United States of America v. \$1,433,196.55 in Funds Seized from Wells Fargo Account Ending in 1877, et al., Cause No. 3:20-CV-442, in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, attached to the Complaint as "Exhibit B" ("Forfeiture Complaint")). The seized assets in dispute were located and remain situated in Dallas County, Texas. See Forfeiture Complaint ¶ 6 ("The defendant property was seized by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in the Northern District of Texas. The property described in 2(a)-(c) is being held in the seized asset deposit fund account at the Federal Reserve Bank for the Northern District of Texas.")¹

5. Accordingly, venue is proper in the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(2), and this action should not be transferred to the Eastern District of Texas, Sherman/Plano Division.

II. AMENDMENT OF COMPLAINT

In an abundance of caution, and to the extent the Court deems the Complaint contains insufficient allegations demonstrating venue in this District, Plaintiffs are filing a First Amended Complaint, pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 15, contemporaneously with this Objection.

III. <u>Relief Requested</u>

¹ The Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas is located at 2200 N. Pearl Street, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Electronic Order Transferring this Case (Dkt. 9) be withdrawn and that this matter be allowed to proceed in the Northern District of Texas, Dallas Division.

Dated: October 19, 2023 Respectfully submitted,

PLATT RICHMOND PLLC

/s/Robert A. Hawkins

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